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East German Imports from the West which are of
Crucial Importance to the East German economy
(Excluding West Germany)

9 January 1956

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I. When imports from West Germany are eliminated from East Germany's import trade with the Free World, nearly all of the few East German import items which are of crucial importance to the East German economy are removed. Of significance in East Germany's current supply and requirements position are the following imports:

Sulphur: Sixty-five percent (180,000 tons) of the domestic use of sulphur in 1954 was imported from Norway, (64,000 tons) Spain, Italy, Portugal and Yugoslavia in the form of pyrites. The primary use of sulphur lies in the manufacture of sulphuric acid, a commodity which is a sine qua non of all industrial economies. If this quantity of sulphur were not available to East Germany, the Bloc could make up the deficit if necessary, but only at a sizable additional cost.

Industrial Diamonds: East Germany, like the entire Bloc, is completely dependent on western sources, primarily the Union of South Africa and Belgian Congo for this commodity. Despite the fact that industrial diamonds are subject to COCOM embargo, because of the ease with which they can be smuggled, it can be presumed that East Germany's primary requirements are being filled. In 1954 about 89,000 karats were imported; ^{from the West} imports of 90,000 karats were planned for 1955.

* Excluding Western Germany.

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Superphosphates: About one-half of the amount of superphosphates used domestically in 1954 was imported from western sources, primarily from France, (28,000 tons) and the Benelux countries (34,000 tons).

Borax: The entire amount of borax used domestically in East Germany is imported from the West, largely from the United Kingdom, Belgium and the Netherlands. In 1954, East Germany planned to import about 3,000 metric tons of borax. Through September 1954 approximately 1,575 metric tons had been imported. Although the Bloc could probably supply replacements for these imports, should they be cut off, it would only be at considerably higher real cost, since Bloc supplies of boron-containing mineral deposits are of apparently low quality.

Napthalene: About one-quarter of the total amount used domestically comes from western sources, primarily the Netherlands (2,500 tons).

II. Among other imports from the west which are probably of crucial importance to particular industries, the following items appear important:

Transformer sheet (core less than 1.1 watts): Formerly most of this sheet was obtained from West Germany but now increasing amounts are also obtained from the United Kingdom and France.

Dynamo sheet: This has been increasingly difficult to obtain from the USSR; the United Kingdom and Sweden are probable suppliers.

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Variable speed and explosion-proof electric motors: These are sought wherever they can be obtained.

Photostatin: About 75 percent of the amount used domestically in East Germany is imported; of this imports from the west (primarily Belgium and France) are of significant, although unknown, quantities.

III. The accompanying table shows East German trade with the west as reported by the Department of Commerce. Attempts to reconcile these data with reports from other sources available to LYTTA are currently being undertaken but no conclusions are yet possible.

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**East Germany's Imports from and Exports to Non-Bloc Countries
(Including West Germany) (In thousands of U.S. dollars)**

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce.

<u>Country</u>	<u>1954</u>		<u>January-June 1955 ^{a/}</u>	
	<u>Imports</u>	<u>Exports</u>	<u>Imports</u>	<u>Exports</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>253,970</u>	<u>235,986</u>	<u>105,914</u>	<u>123,744</u>
United States	599	3,794	199	2,486
Canada	b/	745	32	207
<u>OEEC COUNTRIES</u>	<u>235,538</u>	<u>198,154</u>	<u>96,165</u>	<u>102,652</u>
Austria	10,035	7,444	5,348	4,784
Belgium-Luxembourg	6,697	5,784	3,298	2,180
Denmark	23,910	13,485	6,039	7,574
France	5,752	2,320	2,071	1,097
Germany, Federal Republic	104,469	104,731	45,711	53,265
Greece	3,396	2,116	1,266	592
Iceland	1,014	1,356	375	713
Ireland	1	339	1	35
Italy and Trieste	6,018	4,611	2,409	2,385
Netherlands	25,399	11,801	4,827	5,262
Norway	7,891	11,091	4,432	3,565
Portugal	46	1	101	53
Sweden	17,890	14,413	6,762	6,047
Switzerland	9,020	8,579	3,312	3,506
Turkey	8,061	5,339	8,856	8,606
United Kingdom	5,939	4,744	1,357	2,988
<u>OTHER WESTERN EUROPE</u>				
Finland	11,816	19,879	5,473	10,599
Spain	n r	n r	---	---
Yugoslavia	918	224	687	830
<u>NEAR EAST AND AFRICA</u>				
Egypt	2,108	1,413	1,545	1,230
Gold Coast	1	88	b/	338
Israel	21	---	---	50
Lebanon	13	209	---	---
Nigeria	44	776	16	942
French West Africa	---	7	n r	n r
Algeria	---	3	---	---
Belgian Congo	---	2	n r	n r
French Morocco	---	36	---	3
Malta	---	7	---	---
Sudan	---	1,656	n r	n r
Syria	---	25	---	---
Union of South Africa	---	356	n r	163
<u>FAR EAST</u>				
India	50	401	32	285
Japan	2,445	5,270	1,675	3,243
Malaya	23	657	b/	193
Ceylon	---	56	n r	19
<u>OCEANIA</u>				
Australia	14	1,453	466	335
New Zealand	380	778	b/	168
<u>LATIN AMERICA</u>				
Argentina	198	---	n r	n r

a. Preliminary data for 49 reporting countries, unadjusted for freight and insurance.

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less than \$999. n r: Trade with East Germany not reported.

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